AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(currently amended)** A method for reducing the contamination properties by micro-organisms ~~of~~ to a surface made of a mineral material, said surface having an area of at least ~~0,1~~0.1 m^2, said method ~~including the following steps~~comprising:

a) ~~application, onto~~ applying, to the surface to be treated, ~~of~~ a layer of a solution or ~~of~~ an aqueous suspension consisting of a hydrophilic polymeric material with silica particles dispersed in an aqueous medium; and

b) drying the surface processed at ~~the~~ step a)~~, for obtaining~~ to obtain said surface covered with a layer of said hydrophilic polymeric material.

2. **(currently amended)** ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the mineral material is ~~organic glass or~~ mineral glass.

3. **(currently amended)** ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, characterised in that the mineral material is selected ~~among~~ from the group consisting of ceramics, porcelain, cement ~~or~~ and concrete.

4. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the mineral material is a metallic material~~, such as steel or aluminium~~.

5. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the surface of the mineral material is selected from the group consisting of ~~consists in the~~ surface of a ~~soil~~floor, surface of a culinary work top, surface of a table, surface of a bed, surface of a fermentation reactor, ~~or still of a tubing~~and surface of fluid circulation pipes.

6. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that,~~wherein in step a), the solution or the aqueous suspension includes the hydrophilic polymeric material at a concentration ranging between 0.5% and 5% in weight~~, preferably between 1% and 3% in weight,~~ based on the total weight of the solution or ~~of~~ the aqueous suspension.

7. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material is selected ~~among~~ from the group consisting of ~~the~~ celluloses and their derivatives, ~~the~~ polyacrylamides and their copolymers, ~~the~~ polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) and its copolymers, ~~the~~ vinyl acetate copolymers, ~~and~~ vinyl alcohol copolymers, ~~the~~ glycol polyethylenes, ~~the~~ glycol polypropylenes, ~~the~~ hydrophilic

polyacrylates, ~~the~~ hydrophilic polymethacrylates, ~~the~~ polyosides, and ~~the~~ chitosans.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim ~~8~~1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the solution or suspension of hydrophilic polymeric material has a content of silica particles ranging from 50 $g.l^{-1}$ to 250 $g.l^{-1}$.

10. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein in step a), the application of the hydrophilic polymeric material is conducted by quenching the surface to be treated, or by application of the material onto the surface using a brush, a roll or a spraying device.

11-13. (cancelled)

14. (new) The method according to claim 4, wherein the metallic material is steel or aluminium.

15. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein in step a), the solution or the aqueous suspension includes the hydrophilic polymeric material at a concentration ranging

between 1% and 3% in weight, based on the total weight of the solution or the aqueous suspension.

16. **(new)** The method according to claim 1, wherein said surface has an area of at least 0.1 m^2.